



DEFENDING THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD

THE MIND OF THE WICKED

- For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.
- In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God." (Psa 10:3 ESV)
- The fool hath said in his heart..there is no God (Psa 14v1)

WHY DAWKINS GETS SUCH A FOLLOWING

THERE'S PROBABLY NO GOD.
NOW STOP WORRYING AND ENJOY YOUR LIFE.



Even as they did not
like to retain God in
their knowledge ...



Atheism

The belief that there was nothing
and nothing happened to nothing
and then nothing magically
exploded for no reason, creating
everything and then a bunch of
everything magically rearranged
itself for no reason what so ever
into self-replicating bits which
then turned into dinosaurs.

Makes perfect sense.

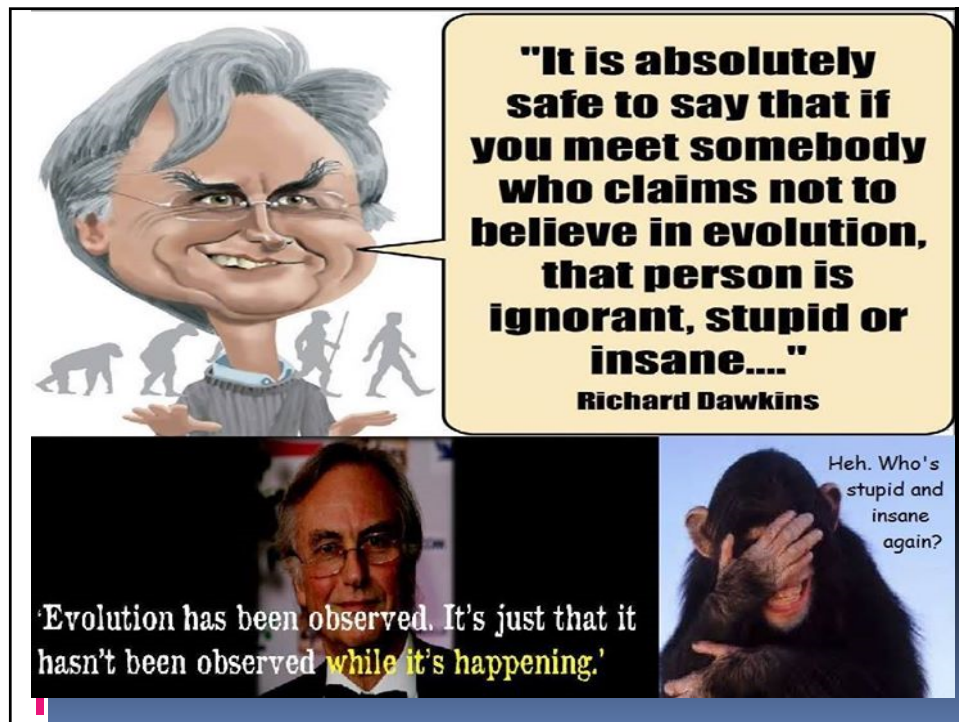


Meet the New Atheists



... same as the old Atheists

"They shall
be turned
unto
fables.."



The Four Horsemen and their anti- God books



The illustration depicts the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: a warrior on a white horse, a conqueror on a red horse, a death figure on a green horse, and a pestilence figure on a pale horse, all riding towards the viewer against a dark, stormy background.

- Christopher Hitchens - "God is not Great"
- David Dennett "The End of Faith"
- Richard Dawkins - "The God Delusion"
"The Blind Watchmaker"
- Sam Harris - -- 'Letters to a Christian nation'

CAN WE DEFEND ALL RELIGION ?

Absolutely not!

- ❖ Jesus not only confronted the hypocritical and corrupted Jewish religion of his time (**Matt 23**) - he also warned often of false prophets to come (**Matt 7v15-23**)
- ❖ Much evil has been done in the name of most religions

Can religion be defended ?

- Mostly not ,as most religion has disgraced God , **but that does not disprove God's existence** –rather it proves His stated opinion of the mind of the flesh..evil continually.
- Israel constantly failed and disgraced God..but despite that ,He uses them as His witness **that He exists**
- True religion does offer better morals and virtues than atheism

The Legacy of Judaism on the World

- ❖ Civilising influences (*cp. to ancient world*)
- ❖ One Supreme, all powerful God ,instead of many immoral, warring gods.
- ❖ A sense that all history is a part of a grand purpose and plan



Christian Influences on the World

- ❖ Opposing Greek & Roman infanticide
- ❖ Eliminating gladiatorial games
- ❖ Building Hospitals & Hospices
- ❖ Elevating the status/rights of women (*cp to the practice of Modern Islam*)
- ❖ Founding Universities



Christian Influences on the World

- ❖ Expansive literature & philosophy
- ❖ Art, Sciences and Music
- ❖ Abolishing Slavery & injustice
- ❖ Promoting advantageous moral codes



2 of 2

What has atheism contributed to the planet ?

- Atheism has very little benefit to offer mankind, it gives us no reason for us to be here and has no morals – only survival of the fittest matters
- Men only cooperate because there is some mutually selfish interest to be had

Now...

- Look at some notable atheists.....and see how their lack of morality worked itself out .

**Adolf Hitler- 20 million dead
including 6 million Jews.**



JOSEF STALIN

20-40 million Russians starved or exterminated



Chairman Mao of China –
unknown millions
exterminated
Estimated 40-80 million



POL POT – CAMBODIA
– 2 million exterminated



Man without God

If man has no moral compass other than his own survival and advantage
-then taking life is no issue.

All these atheistic men were prime examples of inhumanity . But, they were atheists who merely acted in harmony with their belief in survival of the fittest .

THE NEW ATHEISTS

The New Atheists aren't willing to own up to atrocities committed in the name of atheism by Stalin, Pol Pot, or Mao Zedong, yet they expect Christians to own up to all barbarous acts performed in Jesus's name.

WHY BE MORAL ?

Serial murderer (and cannibal) Jeffrey Dahmer reasoned this way–

“If it all happens naturalistically, what’s the need for a God? Can’t I set my own rules? Who owns me? I own myself.”

If there’s no God and we all just came “from the slime,” then “what’s the point of trying to modify your behaviour to keep it within acceptable ranges?”

Paul Copan (Is God a Moral Monster? page 16)

WHO DETERMINES RIGHT FROM WRONG?

ATHEISTS SAY-

- Each individual has inborn good
- Each individual decides on each situation as it arises
- The one law of atheism is :-
“Do what you like- just don’t harm anyone else or infringe their rights”

GOD'S MORALS ARE CONSISTENT

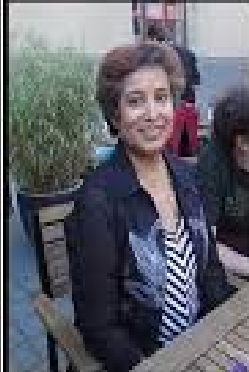
- Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
- Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!
- (Isa 5:20-21)
- I am Yahweh -I change not.....

Understanding the Old Testament God.

Does the Law of Moses really
repress women ?

Understanding the Old Testament God

DOES GOD OPPRESS WOMEN?



Religion is against women's rights and women's freedom. In all societies women are oppressed by all religions.

(Taslima Nasrin)

1zquotes.com

THE FEMINISTS OBJECTIONS

- Sarah called Abraham 'lord' and 'master' (NIV)
- Only males could be priests
- Girls belonged to "the fathers house" (Lev 22v13)
- Baby girls incurred double uncleanness of eighty days for the mother (Lev 12v2-5)
- Girls could be sold to pay off family debts
- Males could override female vows. (Num 30)

Compare the following list of positives to Islam and the laws extant in the ancient world

HOW THE GOD OF ISRAEL HONORED

WOMEN-Divine laws very different to other nations

- Not one clause oppresses or belittles women
- Newlywed husbands were exempted from going to battle in the first year
- Honour thy father and thy mother (this was a totally unique law in the ancient world)
- Tight regulation of divorce and polygamy
- Strong punishment of rape (inevitable death penalty was applied)
- Even women captured in war had protection from rape (never heard of before or since)
-

How God's laws honoured and elevated Jewish women...continued

- Equal access to the sacrificial code
- Maidservants specifically included in the family worship
- Opportunity provided for service in the Temple
- Property inheritance for daughters (orphans)
- Equal opportunity to be Nazarites ..and to offer on the altar with your own hands. (Num 6v2, 18)
- God gave the gift of prophecy to women also
- Equal opportunity to donate to the tabernacle

Not all males could be priests..and no women could do what some men could do...but in matters of salvation and worship ..all are the seed of Abraham by faith....all one in Christ Jesus

GOD AND WOMEN

- Both male and female made in the image of God
- All Israelites were part of the “kingdom of priests”
- Godly women were active and were held in respect and honor outside the home (Prov 31v31)
- God limited the priesthood to males in one family...this discriminated against the eleven other tribes, all Gentiles and all Levites who were not of Aaron’s family (eg. 99.99% of world)
- God does not believe in the modern concepts of equal opportunity -He chose Aaron’s house

LAWS FOR MOTHERS IN ISRAEL

- Totally different to all prevailing codes of nations in the ancient world
- Fourth Commandment..”Honor thy father AND THY MOTHER”.(unique to Jews) – (Exodus 20v12, Lev 19v3, Deut 5v16)

NOTE -THE MOTHER IS FIRST MENTIONED HERE

- *YE SHALL FEAR EVERY MAN **HIS MOTHER**, AND HIS FATHER, AND KEEP MY SABBATHS: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.* (Lev 19:3)
- God recognised that the early and main shaping influence on a child is the mother.
- *My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: (Prov 6:20)*
- See also Prov 19v26, 23v22

RESPECT FOR MOTHER AND FATHER

- Assaulting or cursing **either** parent carried a death penalty. (Exod 21v15,17)
- *And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.*
- *And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.*
- Defiance and continued disobedience to both father and mother also carried a death sentence (Deut 21v18-21)

LAWS FOR WOMEN IN ISRAEL

- Polygamy was not allowed(except in isolated and rare cases to preserve the family inheritance)
- Even if a man had two wives then the husband had to avoid favoritism, especially in matters of family inheritance (Deut 21v15-17)
- In the first year of marriage , husbands were exempted from military service . This ensured the raising of a godly seed, and secured the new wife who was adjusting to a new life away from her family (often among new kin and in a new environment) It also showed that God wanted marriage to be enjoyed .
(Deut 20v7,24v5)

FEMALE CAPTIVES

- Even female captives were allowed time to mourn , before they could be taken to be wives (Deut 21v10-14)
- This prevented the usual consequence of wars (widespread rape)
- The man had time to reflect on his decision
- If the marriage later failed- she could go free , but could not be sold.

CARE FOR MAIDSERVANTS

- Could not be mistreated (Exod 21v26-27)
- Her work limited v7 (avoided dangerous work)
- Men were not to lust after maidservants (Exod 20v17. Deut 5v21)
- Maidservants were specifically included in all the feasts and times of family worship (Deut 12v12, 18, 16v11, 14)
- Maidservants were required to keep the sabbath (Exod 20v10, Deut 5v14)
- The laws of release included women (Deut 15 v12)

THE LAW OF VOWS-Numbers 30

- God encouraged women to make spiritual commitments , especially vows
- Husbands or fathers could deny a vow v5
- This law confirmed God's order of Creation (Adam was first made, was put in charge)
- But once the vow was approved , the man had to totally support her in the vow –v7 (eg.Elkanah)
- This avoided her suffering from his indecision , or being blamed later for her decision.v14-15

WOMEN IN WORSHIP

- Women were included in all religious services
- Even the cleansing of lepers made specific mention of women
- Feasts – Godly families normally went together if at all possible (cp Mary and Joseph- (Luke 2v41)
- God accepted that sometimes it was not always possible for women to go to the feasts (family reasons, physical, pregnancy etc) –they were not under a law to go
- God specifically cared for all the Israelite women, children and their farms –when the menfolk went away to feasts in Jerusalem (Exod 34v23-24)

THE LAWS OF JEALOUSY-Num 5

- Designed to protect an innocent woman from suspicion and accusation of infidelity
- Only “witness” was the husbands suspicions
- God intervened if she was guilty-the death penalty applied for adultery (men as well)
- No innocent women would fear the test
- A husband who made a false accusation was publicly humiliated and silenced
- Could never put her away
- He probably would not be allowed to forget his false accusation.

THE LAWS OF JEALOUSY-Num 5

- It would seem from the context here that all these laws applied equally to male and female - see (5v3, 5v6, 6v2)
- The purpose was to stop "iniquity" v31 – It would remove a climate of anger, humiliation and suspicion, and the possibility of family or mob violence (such as Moslem 'honor killings')
- Prevented arbitrary grounds for divorce
- Discouraged adultery- you will be caught!
- Others would learn to fear (Acts 5v5)

THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN

- Rape was punished by death (Deut 22v25-27)
- That's different to our "enlightened society"
- Men were counted as the guilty party – so different to Islam and most other ancient codes.
- Where a woman was complicit in a sexual relationship (v28- "they are discovered")- she either had to marry the man (Exod 22v16-17) or **he paid** a penalty to her father –as an acknowledgment she would now find it harder to find someone to marry .

MARRIAGE UNDER THE LAW

- Polygamy was never part of God's plan
- There is **no** Bible example of it working out well
- Always brought strife, unhappiness and jealousy
- No examples or allowance in the New Testament
- Only allowed in Law to secure family inheritances
- God encouraged men to have ONE wife as being the best way to live (Prov 5v15, Ecc 9v9)
- Strict control of sexual relations within families was regulated (Lev 18v6-16)

Marriage choices ?

- No laws were given about arranged marriage, but it was fairly a common custom.
- The orphaned daughters of Zelophehad could marry anyone of their choice, but only in their tribe (this restriction was only made to secure the tribal inheritance)

CARE FOR THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS

- Must have been many (given the extensive losses of men in war at various times)
- These families were provided for out of the tithes and firstfruits offerings (Deut 26v12-13)
- They must not ever be oppressed just because they are without defense (Deut 24v17)
- God's anger would rise up quickly if widows were oppressed (Exod 22v22-24)
- The great and terrible God executes the defense of widows (Deut 10v18)

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SO DOES GOD REPRESS WOMEN?

- No !- God **raised** the status of women in Israel to a level not known in any ancient culture, nor in most modern cultures.
- God cared for and provided for the defenseless
- Women were protected from many of the abuses that they still suffer today.



SUMMARY-Is God a moral monster?

- God has not changed- man has changed God
- All of God's laws had a natural benefit
- God loved Israel and wanted the Canaanites exterminated , for Israel's sake
- God did not permit cruel slavery, rather He regulated and guided paid service.
- God raised the status of women incredibly
- God's laws were just and clear, providing deterrents to crime and thoughtlessness
- God sets the laws of the world , not wicked men.

LET US HONOR GOD'S WAYS

- *(Rom 7:12) Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*
- *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*
- *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. (Psa 19:7-8)*

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UNDENIABLE FACTS

- The universe exists and has order and laws
- The earth sustains an amazing array of intelligent and incredible life
- Humans have highly developed minds and moral capacity
- The Bible exists – providing us a reason for our existence , and a purpose for the creation

THE COMING HUMILIATION OF ATHIESTS AND SKEPTICS

- The gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited **lies , vanity** and things wherein there is no profit. **JER 16v19**
- And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people , and the **veil** that is spread over all nations .**ISA 25v7**

WORTH THINKING ABOUT

- I believe in God and eternal life , though all the atheists scoff at me
- Well, if I am wrong, I will never know
- BUT, if they are wrong , and I am right, then they may be in for a most uncomfortable encounter when Christ comes .





The Challenge

Where did God come from ?

- We cant say – we are told He has always been and that we should not try to explain that
- But the evolutionist equally has to be asked ..where did the first matter come from (for the Big Bang) and how did life suddenly appear on earth ?

He that cometh to God must believe he is ..Heb 11v6

THE BIG ISSUE- HOW DID LIFE COME ?

- Science suggests life spontaneously generated in some mineral soup, and evolved upward from a single cell to complex life
- The universe exists and has order and laws
- The earth sustains an amazing array of intelligent and incredible life
- Humans have highly developed minds and moral capacity
- Evolution cannot explain DNA and its incredibly complex coding.

DAWKINS ON DNA- THE SELFISH GENE

- Dawkins promoted the idea of "junk DNA" that is vestigial and **has no purpose we can see** .
- Science took up this claim to support evolution
- An argument from **ignorance** is always a dangerous position to adopt .
- **The ENCODE Project** (2003-2012) has now discovered many **unforeseen** uses and qualities for most of the supposed "junk DNA "
- It is now agreed that 80-90% of DNA has an identified use – and the rest probably does
- Mankind is foolish and arrogant to think God makes mistakes

DNA destroys Dawkins

- “The logical , coded machinery of DNA and the information system it carries shout design to an unprejudiced mind. **Dawkins’s defence is based not on scientific facts , but on ideology** . Evolutionary thinking is teetering as a way of looking at the evidence , not because of some isolated problems here and there , but because the whole structure is scientifically wrong.”

Prof Andy McIntosh University of Leeds (2005)

DAWKINS HAS TO CONCEDE

- **Richard Dawkins**-has had to admit that DNA could not just happen by chance
- When pushed to explain in a BBC debate with John Lennox , he said..... **‘perhaps some space travellers planted the seeds of life and DNA on earth’**
- If you can believe in spacemen , why not angels ?

YOUR CHOICE-UNCERTAINTY OR BELIEF

- Dawkins says...
- "We **don't know** how DNA came to be – perhaps it was brought here by spacemen"
- "We **don't understand** how the cosmos came into being in the first place –**we just don't know** how it all began.."
- **The Bible says –**
- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth- *Gen 1v1*

Why men choose not to believe

- God cannot be **absolutely** proven scientifically, even though all the circumstantial evidence indicates He exists.
- If one admits to the existence of a Creator, then there is probably a reason for His creation
- The Bible states that the reason for the creation is that men should seek to find and to obey God – (Acts 14v15-17 , 17v24-28)
- Most men do not want to be restrained by God and His laws.

THE GREATEST REASON TO BELIEVE

The Bible itself !...

- Consistent, offers hope and reason for our existence
- Prophetic fulfilment –a witness to a divine mind that knows and shapes the future
- Numerical brilliance and amazing patterns
- Offers moral values , way ahead of their time
- Gives meaning and guidance for our life
- Historically accurate –proven and tested

BEWARE OF THEISTIC EVOLUTION

- In recent times some Christadelphians have sought to compromise with the scientific consensus , and re-interpret the Bible to accommodate evolution
- In doing so they claim the early chapters of Genesis are just stories that God gave to uneducated Jews

THEISTIC EVOLUTIONISTS SAY..

- "It seems that our interpretation of Genesis is the problem, not science."
- "We should be wary of accepting any scriptural statements about the natural world as literally true, even though believed to be so for many generations."

SO WHY DO INTELLIGENT BELIEVERS ADJUST THEIR BIBLE UNDERSTANDING TO INCLUDE EVOLUTION?

- They have an admiration for the vast knowledge of scientists
- They think that if you cant defeat a scientific argument – you must accept it as Truth.
- They seem unwilling to look unlearned in the eyes of educated opinion.



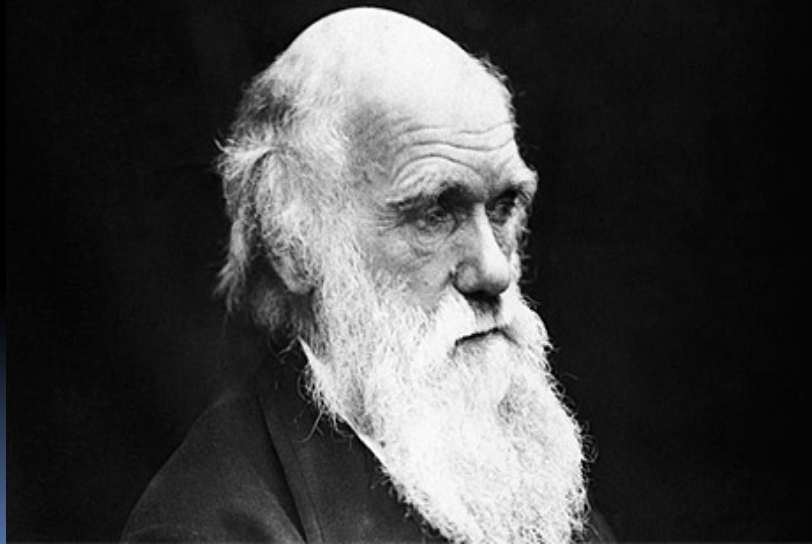
The Bible & Archaeology



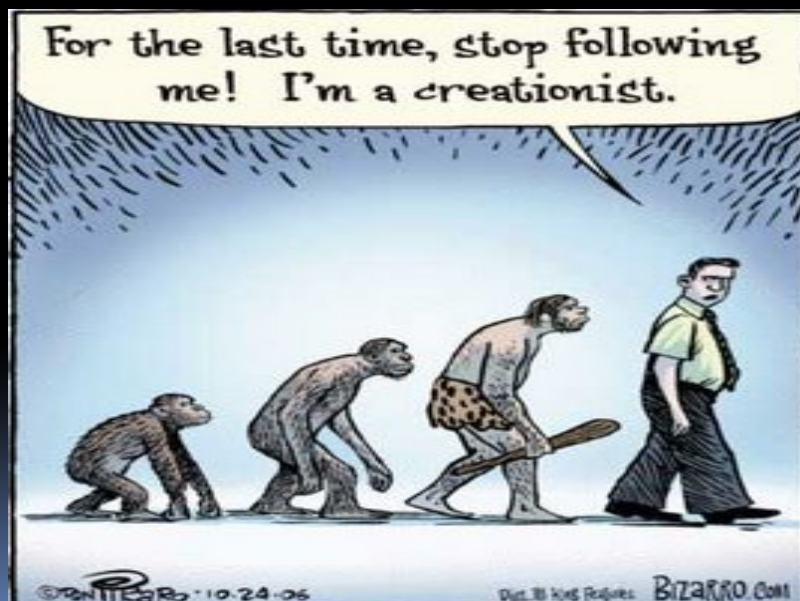
“The excessive scepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the 18th and 19th centuries, certain phrases of which still appear periodically, **has been progressively discredited** . Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.”

William F. Albright, widely recognised as one of the great archaeologists

PROFESSING THEMSELVES TO BE WISE
THEY BECAME FOOLS



THE FOOL HATH SAID..there is no God



Is the Bible Historical ?

Bro Islip Collyer

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." With that bare assertion and briefest of preambles the Bible story opens.

So it is, and must be, with the Bible as a whole. Since all its teaching is rooted in history the authority of that teaching is contingent upon the truth of the history: both stand or fall together .

1 of 2

Is the Bible Historical?

If the Bible history is shown to be, **not a sober record of fact, but simply a fanciful reconstruction of the past – (as Theistic evolutionists say)** then the teaching based upon it cannot be classed as truth.

Bro W.F. Barling 'Law and Grace' Page 23

2 of 2

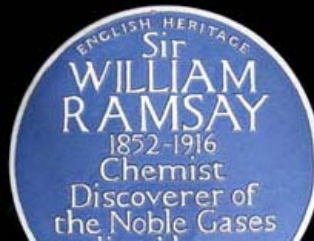


The Bible & Archaeology



“Luke is an historian of the first rank,
he should be placed along the greatest
of historians”

Sir William Ramsey
'Recent Discoveries' p 222



2 of 2

Other problems for Athiests and Skeptics

- Mathematical impossibility for even one such evolutionary event- let alone billions of such chance events .
- 122 known factors make life possible on earth
- No explanation of how interdependent species evolved (insects and plants)
- Huge areas of non – conforming strata –out of order and fossils in wrong strata .
- Evolution is still an unproven and constantly changing theory.

THE BIBLE OR THE WISE OF THIS WORLD ?

That your faith should not stand in
the wisdom of men, but in the
power of God.

(1Cor 2:5)

The Four Horseman

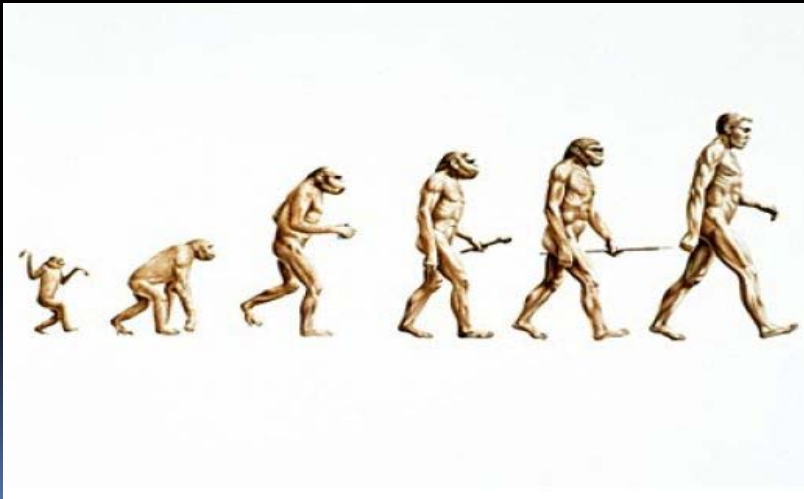


CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

- The absolute perfection of conditions for life on earth.
- The magnificent and intricate creation , the amazing inbuilt instinct –all indicate creative intelligence.
- The amazing wisdom of complementary created things and their programmed abilities to relate
- The person , teaching and resurrection of Christ..and the witness of the transformed men who followed him.
- READ Heb 11v6



REJECT THE DARWINIAN CONCEPT OF MAN'S ORIGIN



THEISTIC EVOLUTION

- Starts with God, not something coming out of nothing.
- Accepts the universe is about 14 billion years old, with man around 150 million years old.
- Accepts that gradually increasing complexity and evolving species occurred .
- Does not rely on pure chance, as they say God designed it all and controlled its unfolding.
- *Not one scripture supports any of these positions .*



Bible Accuracies



- ❖ The earth is round (the circle of the earth) [Isa 40:22](#)
- ❖ The earth is suspended in space [Job 26:7](#)
- ❖ The stars are countless [Gen 15:5](#)
- ❖ The hidden treasures of the snow [Job 38:22](#)
- ❖ The hydraulic (water) cycle [Job 38:25-30](#)

No other religious book can offer an example of such accurate ancient knowledge !

UNDENIABLE FACTS

- The Bible exists – providing us a reason for our existence , and a purpose for the creation

Why men choose not to believe

- God cannot be **absolutely** proven scientifically, even though all the circumstantial evidence indicates He exists.
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GOD'S CHALLENGE

- Thus saith THE LORD, the Holy One of Israel , and his Maker, Ask of me things to come concerning my sons , and concerning the works of my hands command ye me.
- I have made the earth, and created man upon it : I even my hands , have stretched out the heavens , and all their host have I commanded

ISAIAH 45v 11-12